

REMARKS

Foreign Priority:

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging Applicant's claim to foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d), and that the certified copy of the priority document has been received.

Drawings:

The Examiner has alleged that the subject matter of the present application "admits of illustration" under 37 C.F.R. § 1.81.

Although Applicant disagrees with the Examiner and feels that one of ordinary skill in the art would understand the present invention without a figure, Applicant has taken the path of least resistance and added a Figure to address the Examiner's concerns. Applicant has also amended the specification accordingly.

Specification:

The specification has been amended to correct a number of typographical errors regarding the hardness. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added as the hardness scales in claim 1 are correct.

New Claims:

Applicant has also added claims 6-81 to further claim the present invention. Applicant submits that sufficient support exists within the present specification, for each of the newly added claims.

Claim Rejections:

Claims 1-5 are all of the claims that have been examined in the present application, and currently all of these claim stand rejected.

Double Patenting Rejection:

Claim 1-5 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-9 of U.S. Patent No. 6,634,961 to Higuchi et al. (the Parent application to the present application), claims 1-9 of U.S. Patent No. 6,602,941 to Higuchi et al., and claims 1-7 of 6,596,801 to Higuchi et al.

In view of the foregoing rejection, Applicant has taken the path of least resistance and submits herewith Terminal Disclaimers for each of the above referenced patents. Therefore, Applicant hereby requests the Examiner withdraw the above rejection. Further, Applicant hereby submits that these claims, and new claims 6-81, are allowable.

Provisional Double Patenting Rejection:

Claims 1-5 have also been provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-5 of the sister application U.S. Application No.: 10/635,603.

Similar to the above rejection, Applicant submits herewith a terminal disclaimer for the '603 application and submits that these claims, and claims 6-81, are allowable.

Conclusion:

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

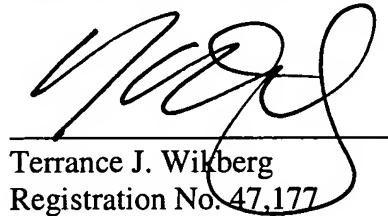
AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Application Number 10/635,610

Our Ref: Q76677
Art Unit: 3711

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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